

SOUTH EAST

REGIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS FACTSHEET

31 March 2009

Introduction

Regional indicators pull together already published statistics to enable comparisons to be made between regions and with progress nationally. These data were published on 31st March 2009.

South East summary

Employment levels in the South East were higher than other regions. Participation in informal and formal volunteering was also the highest of the other regions. Life expectancy was amongst the highest and the rate of infant mortality was amongst the lowest of the regions. The region had seen the largest increase in the proportion of 19 year olds attaining level 2 qualifications.

The total amount of waste arising from construction and demolition, industrial and commercial and municipal waste was the highest of the regions. The region had seen the largest decline in woodland and farmland bird populations. The proportion of trips to school made by walking and cycling was amongst the lowest of the regions.

Progress summary

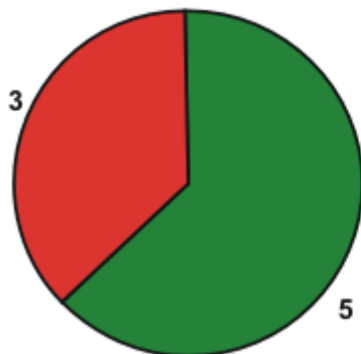
Green = indicators in the region showing clear improvement

Amber = indicators in the region showing little or no change

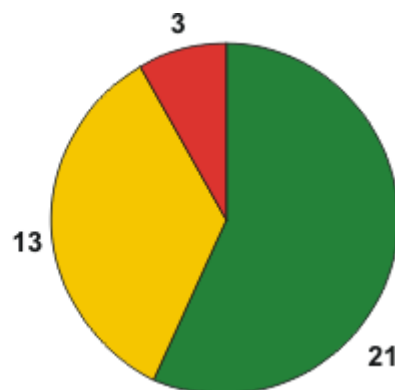
Red^{1,2} = indicators in the region showing clear deterioration

*Sustainable consumption & production
Natural resources (SCP & NR)*

Sustainable communities (SC)



Based on 8 assessments



Based on 37 assessments

¹ Clear deterioration (SCP & NR): household waste – arisings; bird populations – farmland and woodland birds.

² Clear deterioration (SC): mobility – walking and cycling; accessibility - post offices, doctor/hospitals.

SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Greenhouse gas emissions

- The South East emitted 66 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in 2006, the highest amount of the regions.
- However this equated to 8.0 tonnes per resident; below the average rate for England and the second lowest of the regions.

Carbon dioxide emissions by end user

- Around 38 per cent (England average 44 per cent) of CO₂ emissions in the South East were from industry, commercial and public, compared with approximately 32 per cent (England average 29 per cent) from domestic sources and 31 per cent (England average 26 per cent) from road transport.

Waste

Waste - arisings	
Waste - recycling	



- In 2004-5 around 27.8 million tonnes of waste (arising from construction and demolition, industry and commerce and the municipal sector which includes household waste) were produced in the South East; 15 per cent of the England total, and the highest amount produced by any of the regions.
- 51 per cent was produced by construction and demolition (48 per cent, England average) and 32 per cent came from industry and commerce (36 per cent, England average), whilst the remaining 17 per cent was municipal waste (16 per cent, England average).
- 46 per cent of the waste was disposed of by landfill (42 per cent, England average) and 50 per cent was recycled (53 per cent, England average).

Household waste

- On average 511 kilograms of household waste were produced per person in the South East in 2007-8 (England average 495 kilograms); an increase of 4 per cent compared with 1998-9 (England overall increase 3 per cent).
- The South East had the fourth highest recycling rate of the regions, with 36 per cent of household waste recycled (England average 34.5 per cent).

NATURAL RESOURCES

Bird populations


Farmland	
Woodland	

- Between 1994 and 2006, farmland bird populations decreased by 21 per cent. There was a 19 per cent decrease in woodland bird populations.
- During the same period, out of the 19 farmland bird species monitored in the region, 21 per cent increased, 63 per cent declined and 16 per cent remained stable.
- Out of the 29 species of woodland birds monitored in the region, 28 per cent increased, 55 per cent declined and 17 per cent remained stable.

Land use


- The South East has over 513 thousand hectares of grassland and rough grazing (2007 figures), 513 thousand hectares of land for crops and bare fallow (2007), 270 thousand hectares of woodland (1995-9), 92 thousand hectares for set aside and other agricultural uses (2007) and 205 thousand hectares of urban and suburban land (2001).
- 3 per cent of the South East region is designed as National Park (2005), compared with an overall designation of 8 per cent across the England.
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty account for 33 per cent of the region, above the national average of 15 per cent.
- The South East has 74 kilometres of Defined Heritage Coasts.

Land recycling

Land recycling - dwellings	
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- In 2007 72 per cent of new dwellings were built on previously-developed land; an increase of 24 percentage points since 1994.
- The land recycling rate in the South East has at times closely followed the average rate for England, which in 2007 was 73 per cent.

Dwelling density



Dwelling density	
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- Between 1994 and 2007 the density of new dwellings in the South East followed a similar pattern to the average for England as a whole, although remaining slightly below it.
- During this period dwelling density in the South East increased from 22 to 40 dwellings per hectare (82 per cent increase).

Emissions of air pollutants

- In 2006 the South East emitted 195,000 tonnes of nitrogen oxides (NO_x), 97,300 tonnes of sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and 16,400 tonnes of particulates (PM₁₀).
- This accounted for 14 per cent of the total England NO_x emissions, 16 per cent of the total SO₂ emissions, and 12 per cent of all PM₁₀s.


River quality

River quality – biological	
River quality - chemical	

- 77 per cent of the total river lengths in the South East were of good biological quality (England average 71 per cent) in 2006 and 65 per cent were of good chemical quality (England average 66 per cent).
- The South East was third of the regions in terms of biological water quality and for chemical water quality.
- The total river lengths classed as having good biological quality in the South East increased by 11 percentage points between 1990 and 2006, and lengths with good chemical water quality increased by 25 percentage points.




SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Active community participation

Community participation – informal and formal volunteering	
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- There was an increase in the proportion of informal volunteers between 2001 (35 per cent) and 2007-8 (38 per cent) in the South East (England average 35 per cent).
- Formal volunteering increased from 29 per cent to 30 per cent (England average 27 per cent).
- Overall, volunteering in the South East increased from 49 per cent to 53 per cent of the population (England average 48 per cent) between 2001 and 2007-8.

Crime (British Crime Survey)

Crime – burglaries (British crime survey)	
Crime – vehicles (British crime survey)	
Crime – physical attack (British crime survey)	


- British Crime Survey (BCS) figures showed there to be 274 burglaries (England and Wales average 309), 566 motor vehicle thefts (England and Wales average 634) and 456 violent crime (England and Wales average 493) per 10,000 households in the South East in 2007-8.
- These figures are down by 6 per cent, 42 per cent and 48 per cent respectively since 2001-2, with the reduction in violent crime being the largest of the regions.

Fear of crime

Fear of crime – burglary	
Fear of crime – theft of car	
Fear of crime – physical attack	



- In 2007-8, 9 per cent of people in the region were very worried about burglary; below the national average. 12 per cent of people in the region were very worried about burglary in 2001-2.
- With 10 per cent of people in the region expressing a high level of worry about car crime in 2007-8, this was lower than the national average. 15 per cent of people in the region had a high level of worry about car crime in 2001-2.
- In 2007-8 13 per cent of people in the region had a high level of worry about violent crime, lower than the England and Wales average. 19 per cent of people in the region had a high level of worry about violent crime in 2001-2.

Employment

Employment - proportion	
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- In the South East 79 per cent (England average 74.4 per cent) of all working age people in the region were employed in 2008, up from 75.6 per cent in 1992.
- 83.5 per cent of working age males (England average 78.4 per cent) and 74.2 per cent of working age females (England average 70.1 per cent) in the region were employed, overall increases of 2.4 and 4.6 percentage points.

Workless households

Workless households – all people	
Workless households - children	



- In 2008 the South East had the lowest proportion of working age people in workless households (7.6 per cent, national average 11.4 per cent) and the lowest proportion of children living in these households (10.2 per cent, national average 16.0 per cent).
- The proportion of working age people in workless households in the South East decreased by 1.3 percentage points between 1997 and 2008, whilst the proportion of children living in workless households decreased by 1.8 percentage points over the same period.

Economically inactive

Economically inactive - proportion	
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- In the October to December 2008 period the South East had the lowest regional economic inactivity (neither employed nor actively seeking work) for males (12.5 per cent, England average 15.7 per cent), second lowest for females (22.2 per cent, England average 25.6 per cent) and the lowest overall (17.1 per cent, England average 20.4 per cent).
- Male economic inactivity worsened (by 1.9 percentage points) in the region between 1992 and 2008 whereas female inactivity improved (by 3.7 percentage points), and overall the proportion changed little.

Childhood poverty

Childhood poverty – before housing costs	
Childhood poverty – after housing costs	



- Before taking housing costs into account, 15 per cent of children in the South East (England average 22 per cent) lived in relative low-income households in 2004/5-2006/7 (3 year average), rising to 25 per cent (England average 30 per cent) after accounting for housing costs.
- The percentage of children living in relative low-income households decreased in the South East between 1995/6-1997-8 and 2004/5-2006/7, by 2 percentage points before taking housing costs into account and by 1 percentage point after housing costs.

Young adults

Young adults currently not in employment, education or training	
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- 9 per cent of young adults (16 to 18 year-olds) in the South East were not in employment, education or training in the October to December 2008 period (England average 10.5 per cent).
- Since 1995 the percentage of young adults not in employment, education or training has increased by 2.6 percentage points.

Pensioner poverty

Pensioner poverty – before housing costs	
Pensioner poverty – after housing costs	


- In the South East before taking housing costs into account, 19 per cent (England average 22 per cent) of pensioners lived in relative low-income households in the region in the 2004/5-2006/7 (3 year average) period, dropping to 16 per cent (England average 18 per cent) after accounting for housing costs.
- The proportion of pensioners living in relative low-income households before housing costs decreased by 1 percentage point between 1995/6-1997/8 and 2004/5-2006/7 and by 10 percentage points after housing costs.

Education

19 year olds with level 2 qualifications	
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- In 2007, 78 per cent of 19 year-olds in the South East were qualified to Level 2 or above (e.g. five GCSEs at grades C or above, NVQ level 2 or equivalent), up from around 71 per cent in 2004.
- The proportion of 19 year olds achieving Level 2 qualifications in 2007 was 4.1 percent higher in this region than the national average although the increase of 6.2 percentage points from 2004 to 2007 was lower than the national average increase of 7.5 percentage points from 66.4 to 73.9 per cent.

Health inequality

Infant mortality	
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- Infant mortality in the South East in 2007 was lower than the England average of 4.8, falling from 10.3 in 1981 to 3.9 in 2007 deaths per 1,000 live births.
- Infant mortality in 2004-5 stood at 2.83 deaths (England average 3.3 deaths) per 1,000 live births for babies with fathers in higher managerial and professional occupations, compared with 5.77 (England average 6.6 deaths) for routine occupations and 5.49 (England average 6.4 deaths) for semi-routine occupations.




Healthy life expectancy

Life expectancy – males	
Life expectancy - females	

- In 1999-2003, healthy life expectancy in the South East stood at 71.7 years for males and 74.8 years for females (England Average 69.0 years and 72.3 years respectively).

- The South East had the highest male and female healthy life expectancy in comparison to any other region, and between 1992-5 and 1999-2003 healthy life expectancy increased by 2.1 years for males and 3.8 years for females.

Mortality rates

Mortality – circulatory disease	
Mortality – cancer	
Mortality – suicide	

- The mortality rate from circulatory disease in the South East was 66 deaths per 100,000 people (England average 79 per 100,000) in 2005-7), down by 41 per cent since 1996-8.
- The rate from cancer was 108 deaths per 100,000 people (England average 116 per 100,000), down by 13 per cent since 1996-8.
- The suicide rate in the region in 2005-7 was 7.6 deaths per 100,000 people (England average 7.9 per 100,000), down 16 per cent since 1996-8.
- Mortality rates for circulatory disease, cancer and suicide were higher in Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) areas (deprived areas) than in non-NRF areas.

Smoking



Smoking - proportion	
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- 19 per cent of people in the South East (England average 21 per cent) were considered to be cigarette smokers in 2007, down from 24 per cent in 1998.
- 22 percent of males in the region smoked cigarettes (England average 24 per cent), as did 21 per cent of females (England average 22 per cent), in 2007.
- 30 percent of men and 26 percent of women in manual households in the region smoked cigarettes in 2003 compared with 21 per cent of men and 21 percent of women in non-manual households smoked cigarettes.

Childhood obesity

- 15.5 per cent (England average 16.5 per cent) of 2 to 15 year-olds in the South East were obese in 2007; up from 5 percent in 1990. The South East had the second lowest rate of obesity in any region.

Mobility

Mobility – walking and cycling	
Mobility – public transport	




- In 2005-6, walking and cycling accounted for 23 per cent of all trips in the region, with private transport accounting for 70 per cent of journeys and public transport 6 per cent. The proportion of walking and cycling has fallen by 3 percentage points since 1995-7, the proportion of public transport has risen by 1 percentage point.
- 18 per cent of the total mileage was on shopping and personal business, 31 per cent on commuting and business, 4 per cent on education (and escorting children to education), and the remaining 47 per cent on leisure and other pursuits.

Getting to school

Getting to school – proportion walking or cycling	
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- 45 per cent (England average 48 per cent) of pupils in the region walked or cycled to school, whilst 36 per cent (England average 31 per cent) used private motor vehicles and 19 per cent (England average 20 per cent) used public transport.
- Between 1995-7 and 2005-6 the proportion of pupils walking or cycling to school in the region decreased by 0.5 percentage points.



Accessibility

Accessibility – supermarkets / corner shop	
Accessibility – post office	
Accessibility – doctor / hospital	

- In 2007-8, 7 per cent of people in the South East with access to a vehicle perceived getting to a corner shop or supermarket difficult, compared with 30 per cent of people without a car.
- Accessing a post office in the South East was perceived to be difficult by 9 per cent of people with a vehicle and by 24 per cent of those without a vehicle.

- Accessing a doctor or hospital was perceived to be difficult by 23 per cent with a vehicle and by 59 per cent of those without a vehicle.
- In general, access to all amenities has worsened since 1997-8 in the South East.

Road accidents

Road accidents – all people	
Road accidents – children	

- In 2007, 4,478 people were killed or seriously injured in road accidents in the South East (17 per cent of the England total).
- Of these there were 350 children killed or seriously injured in road accidents in the region (13 per cent of the England total).
- Deaths and serious injuries decreased in the region between 1994-8 and 2007, by 26 per cent for all people and by 47 per cent for children.
- The road accident casualty rate in the region was 440 casualties per 100,000 population in 2007.

Environmental equality

- No people living in the least deprived areas in the South East experience 3 or more environmental conditions that are 'least favourable'. Around 13 per cent of the population in the most deprived areas experience 3 or more environmental conditions that are 'least favourable'.


Air quality and health

- Six sites were used for monitoring air pollution in the South East in 2008. The number of days of moderate or higher air pollution in the region ranged from 2 days in Oxford St Ebbes to 53 days in Lullington Heath (provisional figures). The number of days of moderate or higher air pollution was lower in 2008 than 2007 in two of the five sites in the region for which this comparison was possible.
- Three sites were used for monitoring particulates (PM₁₀) in the South East in 2008 and PM₁₀ levels decreased between 2007 and 2008 in one of the two sites in the region for which this comparison was possible, whilst the other remained unchanged.
- Seven sites were used for monitoring ozone in the South East in 2008 and ozone levels increased between 2007 and 2008 in six of seven sites in the region for which this comparison was possible.

Housing conditions



- 1,012,154 dwellings in the South East failed to meet the 'Decent Homes' standard in 2003. This represented 29 per cent of the region's stock of dwellings (England average 31 per cent)

Households living in fuel poverty

Fuel poverty - proportion	
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- 8.5 per cent (England average 11.5 per cent) of households in the South East lived in fuel poverty (based on income and heating costs) in 2006, up by 1.8 percentage points since 2001. The South East had the second lowest level of fuel poverty in any region in 2006.

Homelessness

Rough sleepers	
Homeless households	


- It is estimated that there were 55 people sleeping rough in the South East in 2008, down from 349 in 1998.
- At the end of the third quarter of 2008 there were 5,650 households (up from 6,390 in 1997) in temporary accommodation in the region, 4,190 (74 per cent) of which contained children.

Local environmental quality

Local environmental quality	
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- 35 per cent of assessed sites in the South East in 2007-8 were judged to be of good local environmental quality, the joint highest regional proportion.
- 3 per cent (England average 4 per cent) of sites in the region were judged as having a poor local environment.
- In total, 58 per cent (England average 49 per cent) of sites were judged to be of good or satisfactory local environmental quality in the region.

Satisfaction in local area

Satisfaction in local area	
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- Householder satisfaction in the characteristics of the local area has remained stable at 90 per cent, in the South East between 1999-00 and 2007-8 (England average 87 per cent).

UK international assistance

- The South East of England received £30.3 million in EU structural funding in 2007, down from the £37 million received in 2000. Allocated EU funding for the South East of England in 2013 will rise to £34.1 million. England as a whole received £919.3 million in 2007, which will fall to £707.7 million in 2013.

Wellbeing

- The average life satisfaction rating in the South East in 2007 was 7.41, slightly above the national average of 7.31.
- Compared to nationally, there were only minor differences in the distribution of ratings given with a greater proportion of people, almost 30 per cent, giving ratings of 8.

Child wellbeing

- In 2008, 88 per cent of children in the South East said they felt quite or very safe at school, similar to when going to and from school. Compared to 76 per cent at local area and 68 per cent on public transport.
- 75 per cent of children thought their local area was fairly or very good. About half of the children thought the activities and things to do in their area were fairly or very good. Only 46 per cent thought the parks and play areas were fairly or very good.
- 88 per cent of children rated themselves as quite or very healthy, whilst 74 per cent said they spent “3-5 days” or more “doing sports or other active things in the last seven days”.
- 68 per cent of children in the South East said they feel happy about life at the moment. 66 per cent said they can talk to their mums and dads when they are worried about something compared to 71 per cent (to friends) and 48 per cent (to an adult other than their mums and dads).

CONTEXTUAL INDICATORS

Economic output

- The South East had a Gross Value Added (GVA - a measure of economic output) level of £22,624 per head in 2007, the second highest of the regions.
- GVA in the region increased by 156 per cent between 1989 and 2007, a greater increase than all other regions.
- GVA in the region has gradually been moving further ahead of the national average, and is currently around £2,161 higher than the England average.

Productivity

- Labour productivity in the South East was £36,800 Gross Value Added (GVA) per workforce job in 2005, up from £24,300 in 1996; an increase of £12,500.
- Productivity increased in all regions from 1996 to 2005. In the South East this increase (47 per cent) was similar to the England average.

Investment

- As a percentage of regional Gross Value Added (GVA), the South East had a higher than average level of investment from foreign-owned companies in 2004; 1.9 per cent compared to the England average of 1.4 per cent.
- Investment in the region from UK-owned companies (6.4 per cent) was the third joint highest of the regions (excluding London and the West Midlands) and also higher than the England average of 5.9 per cent.
- During the period 1998 to 2004 investment in the South East from foreign-owned companies decreased by 0.6 percentage points, there was a 0.2 percentage point decrease for England as a whole.
- Investment from UK-owned companies declined by 1.8 percentage points between these years (the England average decreased by 3.2 percentage points).

Demography

- The population of the South East of 8.3 million (including 5.1 million people of working age) is the largest in comparison with the other regions.
- Between 1991 and 2007, the total population of the South East increased from 7.63 million to 8.3 million.
- The working age population increased from 4.68 million (61.3 per cent of the population) to 5.1 million (61.4 per cent of the population).

Households and Dwellings

- In 2007 the South East contained 3.54 million dwellings (up from 3.10 million in 1991). In 2004, there were 3.37 million households (up from 3.03 million) and 0.99 million one person households (up from 758,000) in 2004.